

ASSESSING THE APPLICATION OF STANDARD PREVENTIVE PRECAUTIONS INDICATORS AMONG HEALTH WORKERS AGAINST VIRAL HEPATITIS B IN SURGICAL THEATERS

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ABSTRACT : Viral hepatitis B is remaining one of the serious global public health problem and the infection usually transmitted from infected mothers to their babies at birth or through parenteral contamination and causing a chronic liver diseases, if it is not treated early. The study aimed to verify the application of the standard preventive precaution indicators by health workers in surgical wards against viral hepatitis B. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted on different surgical wards, Kirkuk General Hospital during the period from 1st January till 30th May, 2014 and 100 participants (Medical, Health, service care workers) were included in the study. The data was collected through a special questionnaire form containing five main parts about the standard precautions and vaccination status through a direct interviewing with them after receiving their verbal consent before establishing the study. A full complete explanation of the aim was done by the researcher. The study shows that all of the study sample were exposed to blood and health staff were the most exposed group (50.8%). There was an equal exposure of both female and male towards blood infection (75.0% versus 72.2%). There was a high number of exposed (medical and health workers) to contact with blood through skin abrasion (75.0%, 61.3%) respectively, which is higher number than health service group workers (33.4%). The study concluded that majority of study sample were vaccinated with hepatitis B virus vaccine and more than half of the health workers had completed 3 doses of it. The study recommended that further advanced educational programs concentrated mainly on the vaccination effect on human health especially among workers in health aspect.

Key words : Health workers, viral hepatitis, application, standard.

INTRODUCTION

Hepatitis B is one of the most commonest health problems characterized by easily spreading especially in major developing countries because of the poverty, illiteracy and low educational level (Aspinall *et al*, 2011).

Patients with hepatitis B infection presents without symptoms (a symptomatic) and they are regarded as a dangerous method of disease transmission through their contact with the other society people and particularly with the medical personnel (Salehi *et al*, 2010).

Viral hepatitis B transmitted by blood either through percutaneous route or by body fluids like saliva, vaginal discharges and seminal fluid, therefore the virus circulated a higher titer in blood than in other body fluids and it is more infectious than Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV) and hepatitis C virus (Gish *et al*, 2014; European Association, 2012).

Globally about 1/3 of the infected population with HBV die because of risky prognosis of it lead to either (acute or chronic) carrier state, which can classified into

low, medium and high depending on the region of endemicity which presents more in Asia and Africa because of vertical routes of transmission by mothers to their children via the placenta and horizontal route between children (Candotti *et al*, 2007 and Ganju, 2000).

The prevalence of hepatitis B infection among health care workers who are at a high risk for acquiring blood born infection because of their personnel occupational contact with the body fluids depends mainly on the occurrence of viral hepatitis in all society (Shiao *et al*, 2002 and Ziraba *et al*, 2010).

For the above reasons, transfusion is the essential way of HBV transmission, mainly in low social countries while in more advanced regions with updated medical diagnostic and laboratory health services, a high number of people used blood as a method of specialized treatment which requiring a very specified transfusion support (Jayaraman *et al*, 2010).

The method of blood usage is quite different between countries throughout the world, in which the diagnostic